

11. The Throne Set in Heaven

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to understand, explain and apply these messages to the churches so that they can help other individuals come to Christ to enjoy fellowship with Him. In this topic, we see that we will move from the messages to the churches to the throne that is set in heaven.

Chapter three concluded with the messages to the churches. As we come to chapter four Revelation 4:1 says, “After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.” Here, we see that John is invited to come to heaven and see the things that will happen immediately after the time of the churches. The next mention of the church is in Revelation 9:7-10, where the church is called the wife of Christ instead of the bride. The only other future mention of the churches in this book is in Revelation 22:16, where we read: “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” This event, in Revelation 4:1, begins the time of the Day of the Lord.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, we have the Rapture of the Church. The next two verses, in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 say, “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.” The phrase “Day of the Lord” was used in the Old Testament both to describe judgments during that time, as well as the future judgments. Joel 2:30-31 says, “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.” Here, we see that the “Day of the Lord” will affect both the sun and the moon. This time will come on the world like a thief in the night, immediately after the Christians are taken to heaven in the Rapture, as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

In addition, God had already said that four of the churches would remain until the coming of Christ. God had given such a promise to the church in Philadelphia in Revelation 3:10, which says: “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” In this verse, we see that the church in Philadelphia was promised that they would be kept from the hour of trial which would come on the entire world. The seven years of tribulation will be a great trial for the entire world. Those who have never heard and turn to Christ and become tribulation saints during the tribulation period will be killed by the antichrist because of the anger of Satan against God.

The “Day of the Lord” describes the period from the Rapture of the church to the final judgments given in Revelation 20:10-15. Here, we see that the churches will be kept from that hour of trial that will come on the whole world. The Lord told John that He would show John the “things which must take place after this.” The Lord gave John the outline for Revelation in Revelation 1:19, which says, “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.” We saw that the things which are described the period of the churches

in Revelation 2-3. Then, we saw that the things which are after this begin with Revelation 4, so this invitation to John shows that we are moving from the time of the churches to the things after this.

Revelation 4:2-3 says, “Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.” In this verse, we see that John is in the Spirit. John was taken by the Holy Spirit to heaven so that he could actually see the things that he was told to describe. The first thing that John saw in heaven was a throne set in heaven. We will see that John mentions this throne set in heaven a total of forty-five times in the book of Revelation. In fact, seventeen of those times will be found just in chapters 4 and 5. In Isaiah 6:1, we read, “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple.” In this verse, we see that the throne in heaven speaks of the authority of the One who sits on that throne. This same thing is true in the book of Revelation. We see that the Lord is the One who exercises this authority.

In these verses, we are also given a description of the appearance of the Lord. The word translated “like” means *similar or resembles* and is used a number of times in Revelation to use something that is known to describe something that John could not describe as he wrote this book. Here, we see that the appearance of the Lord was like a jasper and a sardius stone. Revelation 21:10-11 describes a jasper stone by saying, “And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” Here, we see that the word used for a jasper stone describes a very precious stone that was as clear as crystal so it may be like a diamond. The second stone is called a sardius which was named for the city near which it was found and so was blood red like a bright ruby.

We also see that there was a rainbow around this throne. The first rainbow is described in Genesis 9:12-13 where we read, “And God said: “This *is* the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that *is* with you, for perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.” Here, we see that the original rainbow was a sign of the covenant that God gave to Noah and all who would live on the earth in the future. This rainbow would indicate that God will be faithful in keeping all of the promises that He has made for eternity. We see that this rainbow is compared to an emerald in its appearance. An emerald is green so the green color was the main color in this rainbow.

Revelation 4:4-5 says, “Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.” We see that around the throne of the Lord there are 24 more thrones with elders sitting on these thrones. In Revelation 3:5, Christ promised, “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” We see that all overcomers will be clothed in white garments. We will see that these white robes are robes of

righteousness.

Those sitting on these thrones cannot be angels because angels are not given robes of righteousness. It is not Israel because most of the nation of Israel has not yet turned to Christ. Romans 11:25-26 says, “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.’” Israel as a whole will finally turn to Christ at the end of the tribulation so that is still future in most of the book of Revelation.

However, Revelation 19:7-8 says, “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Instead, we see that the fine linen robes are the righteous acts of the saints in the church. As a result, we see that the twenty-four elders represent the church which will be taken to heaven at the Rapture before the start of the tribulation. In addition to the robes of righteousness, we see that the saints have crowns of gold on their heads. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” Crowns are given as rewards.

We see that three things were coming from the throne: lightnings, thunderings and voices. The word translated “voices” can refer either to words, to a language or to sounds from musical instruments. These things speak of the fact that judgment will come on the earth from the Lord. Revelation 8:5 says, “Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.” Then, the following verses speak of the trumpet judgments. We see the same thing during the seventh bowl judgment. Revelation 16:18 says, “And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.” This is followed by the judgment of Babylon.

We also see that there are seven lamps burning before the throne. These are the seven Spirits of God. These seven ministries of the Spirit are given in Isaiah 11:2, where we read: “The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” The seven Spirits of God are the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of counsel, the Spirit of might, the Spirit of knowledge and the Spirit of the fear of the Lord. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain each of the things mentioned in these verses from the Word of God. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these things.